



SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- **Fall 2015 Debates**
- **Contact Congress about the Clean Power Plan! See p. 2 for details**

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League Helps Host Governor's Debate

By **IVONNE ROVIRA**

In quite a coup, the League of Women Voters of Kentucky hosted both the gubernatorial and lieutenant governor candidate forums this fall.

"It was a privilege to work with Midway University, Eastern Kentucky University and the two CBS affiliates — WLKY-TV, Louisville and WKYT-TV,

Lexington — in co-hosting the debates for candidates for lieutenant governor and governor," said Cindy Heine, debate chair and one of the directors of the state League.

"Both debates provided information about the differences between the candidates, hopefully helping voters make informed choices as they went to

the polls on election day," she added.

The debate between Republican Matt Bevin and Democrat Jack Conway on Oct. 25 at Eastern Kentucky University and the debate between Conway's running mate, Sannie Overly, and Bevin's running mate, Jeanean Hampton, on Sept. 23 at Midway

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After the Oct. 25 gubernatorial debate at EKU's Center for the Arts, candidates and League members posed for a memento photo. Pictured (left to right): Nita Smith, Tammy Fagley, Terry Naydan, Lexington; Jack Conway, Democratic candidate; Erin Kidder, Lexington; Bill Bryant, WKYT-TV; Cindy Heine, Lexington; Matt Bevin, Republican candidate; Donna Blue, Lexington; Vicki Dortch, WLKY-TV.

Presidents' Message

By **TERRY NAYDAN**
and **NITA SMITH**



Co-presidents,
from top to
bottom: Terry
Naydan and Nita
Smith

Wow! By the time you read this the 2015 election will be over and what a busy, fantastic fall we have had with all our debates, forums and symposiums! We are sure you have been busy in your own home towns.

To be perfectly honest we are glad it's over! However, much of what happened is due to the tireless efforts of our volunteers and especially to Cindy Heine, who took on this huge job as Debate /Forum chair. She may rest on her laurels!!!

We had a wonderful turnout for the lieutenant governor's forum we co-sponsored with Mid-

way College. It was so nice to have representatives from the Louisville, Lexington and Hopkinsville Leagues attending. It was an exciting event for all.

We also co-sponsored the University of Kentucky Voting Symposium and appreciate all the donations from our local leagues and individuals who made it a reality. We enjoyed meeting so many people. (See more about it on p. 3.)

The gubernatorial debate was held on the beautiful campus at Eastern Kentucky University, which we co-sponsored along with the two CBS affiliates — WLKY-TV, Louisville and WKYT-TV, Louisville — and EKV. We were so glad to see League represent-

atives from Hardin County, Madison County, Bell County and Lexington here! We received a lot of coverage and compliments for our organization and professionalism on this debate, and it was an informative, vocal, and, at times, contentious exchange of view points.

Our next State LWV board meeting will be in January with Louisville as host. If you have anything special you think we need to be aware of, please let us know.

We are proud to be your co-presidents and are excited about the coming year!



TAKE ACTION: Congress Threatens Clean Power Plan

The Obama Administration's Clean Power Plan, which protects public health, creates thousands of efficiency-related jobs, reduces electricity bills for Americans and delivers power reliably is being threatened by members of the House and Senate who are attempting to permanently block this important regulation.

This plan puts in place commonsense limits on carbon pollution from power plants and provides flexibility states need to

develop their own plans to meet reduction targets.

Ask Congress to oppose legislation that would undermine the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Clean Power Plan.

Call or email via the LWVUS website at <http://lwv.org/issues/defending-environment>.

Contact Information

All telephone numbers begin with area code (202)

Mitch McConnell	224-2541
Rand Paul	224-4343
Ed Whitfield	225-3115
Brett Guthrie	225-3501
John Yarmuth	225-5401
Thomas Massie	225-3465
Hal Rogers	225-4601
Andy Barr	225-4706

LWV Co-Sponsors Civil Rights Symposium

By **MARIJANE
SNELLEN**

What a wonderful time I had at the Voting Symposium hosted by the University of Kentucky's Martin School of Public Policy and Administration! This symposium was also sponsored, in part, by the League of Women Voters of Kentucky, as voting rights are such an integral part of League values.

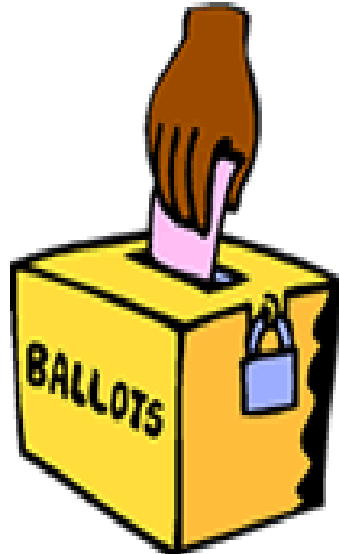
KET was on hand to film and broadcast the event.

I was very impressed by the panels the Martin School assembled to discuss the Voting Rights Act of 1965 on its 50th anniversary. Dorothy Gilliam's first-hand account of events surrounding Selma, Alabama, during the 60's civil rights strife kicked off the event.

We then heard from former Kentucky Secretary of State Trey Grayson and present Pennsylvania Secretary of State Pedro Cortes.

Following that, we heard from several presenters who are involved in the current legal struggles for voting rights. They gave their perspective of the state of voting rights after *Shelby County v. Holder*, which struck down Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

At that point I had to leave, but there was an even-



ing panel that looked like it was going to be just as interesting focusing on the future of voting rights.

Each panel was engaging. I was impressed by the many notable presenters the Martin School was able to bring together.

For those who want one presenter's perspective on current voting rights, Ari Berman recently published his book *Give Us the Ballot*, which provides a well-researched background about past and present voting rights.

Voting Rights: Past, Present Future is available for viewing on KET's website. Search for 'KET Voting Rights.'

Beshear Restores Voting Rights

By **TERRY NAYDAN**

By executive order, Governor Steve Beshear recently restored voting rights for more than 100,000 non-violent felons who have paid their debt to society.

The League of Women Voters, along with our coalition partners, have worked for years to ensure that every eligible citizen has an opportunity to vote. Kentucky was one of the very few states who did not automatically allow felons who had completed their sentences to vote.

We hope that these newly franchised citizens will take advantage and vote in the next election.

State LWV Redistricting Committee

By **STEVE SENFT**

In July 2009, the League of Women Voters of the United States published a report *Developing an Action Agenda for Redistricting in 2011*. Despite the title, the report's information is not time specific. Its comprehensive suggestions for creating a non-partisan redistricting process will provide a very good guide for overhauling the redistricting process in Kentucky. You can find the report online at www.lwv.org.

Another organization with helpful information is the Brennan Center for Justice (brennancenter.org). That site has an article reporting on the Nov. 3 passage of a constitutional amendment in Ohio that creates a less partisan redistricting process. Another recently formed nationwide group for ending gerrymandering is "Independent Lines Advocacy" (independentlines.org).

Because legislative action is essential to creating a better redistricting system, we will need a widespread grassroots effort. We're asking that a representative from each local League be chosen to serve on our redistricting committee. The committee's mission will be to gather information and work with other groups (such as Common Cause, the ACLU and others) to organize the support needed to promote appropriate legislation. Please provide the names of members to Nita Smith (nitavotes@aol.com) and Steve Senft (steve.senft@twc.com).

Thanks to Debate Volunteers



Lieutenant Governor's Debate, Sept. 23

Donna Blue
 Tammy Fagley
 Donna Hall (non member)
 Cindy Heine
 Richard Heine
 Judy Johnson
 Erin Kidder
 Terry Naydan
 Nita Smith
 Barbara Sterrett
 Sheri Trail

Governor's Debate, Oct. 25

Donna Blue
 Tammy Fagley
 Cindy Heine
 Erin Kidder
 Susan Leo
 Vicki Markell
 Pat Murrell
 Terry Naydan
 Carol O'Reilly
 Dot Ridings
 Cecile Schubert
 Steve Senft
 Nita Smith
 Barbara Sterrett
 Sheri Trail
 Meryl Ward

LWV Hosts Gubernatorial, Lt. Gov Debates

Cont'd from p. 1

University were both broadcast live across the state. The debates were also streamed live.

In addition to WLKY and WKYT, other television stations serving Kentucky that said they'd air the debate included WYMT in Hazard, WBKO in Bowling Green, WPSD in Paducah, WLWT in Cincinnati and WSAZ in Huntington, W.V. It was also broadcast live by radio stations WEKU-FM, Richmond, and WLAP-AM, Lexington.

The state League wishes to extend its thanks to all of the

League members who suggested questions and, specifically, Vicki Markell, Pat Murrell, Dot Ridings and Steve Senft, who met to discuss and narrow questions for the governor's debate.

"As the only women's college in Kentucky, working with Midway University was a natural with two female candidates for lieutenant governor, Jeanean Hampton and Sanny Overly," said Cindy Heine.

A majority of audience members were Midway students. "Midway University and ECU staff members were very helpful and profes-

sional in making things work on site. The CBS affiliates, WLKY-TV, Louisville and WKYT-TV, Lexington, handled all the technical details.

"Vicki Dortch (WLKY) and Bill Bryant (WKYT) are both experienced TV anchors and moderators and did a very professional job at both debates," Heine said. "We felt this was a very successful partnership."

Hardin County LWV Has Kids Vote

By **LINDA HUGHES**

In October, the League of Women Voters of Hardin County found itself once more in the Kids Vote program, which was such a great success last year.

Classrooms from 4th through 12th grade cast their ballots on school days just prior to the November election. Hardin Co. Schools,



Elizabethtown Independent Schools, West Point Independent School, St. James Regional Catholic School, The Career Center, as well as private and home

schools in the county, all agreed to participate in Kids Vote 2015.

Without the work of great volunteers, this project could never have been such a grand success. We wish to extend our heartiest gratitude to all who gave their time and effort, especially school superintendents and principals, teachers, students and, of course, the parents.

Volunteer on Committee

By **NITA SMITH**

The League of Women Voters of Kentucky always seeks new members for its many committees. If you find yourself interested in a par-

ticular committee, please feel free to contact that committee's chair.

A list of our standing committees follows:

Standing Committees

Redistricting: Steve Senft, Chair
 steve.senft@twc.com
 Members: Nita Smith, Marijane Snellen and Cindy Heine

Civics Education: Beverly Moore, Chair
 beverlylwvl@gmail.com

Money and Politics: Terry Naydan, Chair
 terrynaydan@aol.com
 Members: Joan Lindop, Bonnie Lynch, Cindy Heine, Richard Heine, Joy Arnold

Campaign Finance Committee (Louisville LWV) Contact: Beverly Moore
 beverlylwvl@gmail.com

Environment: Joan Lindop, Chair
 jlindop@gmail.com
 Member: Donna Blue

Communications: Cindy Heine and Tammy Fagley, Chairs
 cynthia.heine@gmail.com or tammy.fagley@gmail.com

Restoration of Felon Voting Rights: Terry Naydan, Chair
 terrynaydan@aol.com
 Member: Nita Smith

Debates/Forums: Cindy Heine, Chair
 cynthia.heine@gmail.com
 Members: Tammy Fagley, Nita Smith and Terry Naydan

Domestic Violence: Meryl Ward, Chair
 merylward@icloud.com



LWV of Kentucky

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LWV of Kentucky Board Members

Co-Presidents:

Terry Naydan
Nita Smith

First Vice President:

Bonnie Lynch

Second Vice President:

Steve Senft

Secretary: Fran Wagner

Treasurer: Richard Heine

Directors:

Tammy Fagley
Cindy Heine
Joan Lindop
Beverly Moore
Harriette Seiler
Marijane Snellen
Meryl Ward

Nominating Committee:

Reva Hart, Chair
Pat Murrell
Cecile Schubert

The Voter Editor: Ivonne Rovira

Calendar

**Saturday, Jan. 16, 10
a.m.:** LWVKY Board Meeting, Louisville

Thursday, March 31:
League Day at the Capitol.

Saturday, April 23:
LWVKY Council, Hopkinsville

Monday, April 18: Last day to register to vote in the primary.

**Saturday, April 23, 10
a.m.:** LWVKY Board Meeting, Hopkinsville